January 2026

WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1				1	2	3	4
2	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
3	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
4	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
5	26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2026

WK	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
5							1
6	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
7	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
8	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9	23	24	25	26	27	28	

Key

Pupils at School
Weekends
Teacher Training Days
Bank Holidays
Holiday

Don't forget to bring your refillable water bottle.

Weekly Newsletter

Spring Term 1

Issue 200

30th January 2026

Careers Event

On 23rd January, a group of students and staff attended the Careers Fair at Stamford Arts Centre. This was hosted by Alicia Kearns MP who brought together a number of different organisations, businesses, colleges and training providers.

Students had the opportunity to speak to organisations in order to find out more about their role in the local community and the opportunities they offer.

Students and staff enjoyed the event and we look forward to returning again next year.

Burns Night

We celebrated Burns Night with a traditional piper, a poem and a lunch of haggis, neeps and tatties. Two students tried the lunch .

What is this about?

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a growing part of everyday online life. Many young people are encountering AI through homework tools, games, and creative apps. However, there is a growing number of AI chatbots and "companion" apps that are designed specifically to hold conversations with users — and these raise important safeguarding considerations.

These tools can appear as friendly characters, advisors, or even "digital friends". While some are marketed as harmless or supportive, they are not regulated in the same way as school systems or child-focused platforms.

How can it be a risk?

AI chatbots are designed to respond in ways that feel personal, understanding and emotionally engaging. This can be appealing to young people, particularly those who may:

- Feel lonely or isolated
- Struggle with peer relationships
- Find online interaction easier than face-to-face communication

However, unlike real people, AI systems do not have safeguarding responsibilities. They may:

- Provide inaccurate or inappropriate advice
- Encourage dependency or excessive use
- Fail to recognise emotional distress or risk
- Reinforce negative thoughts rather than challenge them

Some chatbots also store conversation data or encourage users to share personal information, without young people fully understanding how that information is used.

What parents and carers can do

AI tools are developing quickly, so awareness is key. Parents and carers may wish to:

- Ask what apps or websites their child uses for chatting or "advice"

- Check age ratings and privacy policies carefully

- Encourage a healthy balance between online interaction and real-world relationships

- Reinforce that AI is not a replacement for trusted adults or friends

It's important that children and young people know that if something worries them online — even if it's "just a computer" — they should still talk to a trusted adult.

Parents can report online concerns to **CEOP**, speak to the school's safeguarding team, or access guidance from **NSPCC**, **ThinkUKnow**, and **Childline**.

https://www.ceop.police.uk/Safety-Centre/

https://saferinternet.org.uk/resource/thinkuknow-

https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/reporting-abuse/report/

https://www.childline.org.uk/

Grantham College
& University Centre

Open Events

Explore Our Full-Time Courses, Apprenticeships, Adult Learning, and Higher Education Opportunities!

Thursday 29 January 2026
5:30 – 7:30 pm

Thursday 30 April 2026
5:30 – 7:00 pm

BOOK YOUR PLACE
www.grantham.ac.uk/our-events

Scan here